

Message Text

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TAGS: EFIS CA

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC CANADA S FISHERIES: JANUARY TO
JUNE 1977

1. A SUBSTANTIAL DROP IN FISH LANDINGS IN BOTH NEWFOUNDLAND AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES (NEW BRUNSWICK, NOVA SCOTIA, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND) WAS REPORTED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1977, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1976. LANDINGS BY NFLF FISHERMEN DURING THE SIX MONTH PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 116,713 METRIC TONS VALUED AT DOLS 25 MILLION WHILE LAST YEAR S LANDINGS DURING SAME PERIOD WERE 155,488 TONS VALUED AT DOLS 30 MILLION. IN MARITIME PROVINCES, LANDINGS IN FIRST HALF 1977 WERE 115,725 METRIC TONS VALUED AT DOLS 44 MILLION, COMPARED WITH 1976 LANDINGS OF 173,335 METRIC TONS VALUED AT DOLS 57 MILLION.

2. REASON FOR DECLINE IN CATCH IN NFLD WAS PRIMARILY TRAWLERSMEN S STRIKE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR. MOREOVER, 1976 CATCHES IN BOTH NFLD AND THE MARITIMES WERE ENHANCED BY THE RAPE OF THE REDFISH FISHERY IN THE GULF OF ST LAWRENCE (76 ST. JOHN S A-21) WHICH LED TO SEVERE QUOTA RESTRICTIONS ON THAT SPECIES WHICH WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT TONNAGE OF LANDINGS FOR SOME YEARS TO COME. IN THE MARITIMES, POOR WEATHER DURING
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THE WINTER ADVERSELY AFFECTED HERRING CATCHES. ALSO, MACKEREL AND SHELLFISH LANDINGS WERE DOWN MARKEDLY IN COMPARISON WITH LAST YEAR.

3. COMMENT: REPORTING OFFICER DISCUSSED HALF-YEARLY RESULTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA S FISHERIES AND MARINE SERVICE IN ST JOHN S AND HALIFAX.

IN BOTH CITIES THE FMS REPS INDICATED THAT THEY ATTACHED
NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DECLINE IN LANDINGS
IN FIRST HALF OF 1977. THEY AGREED THAT REDFISH STOCKS
WILL BE MANY YEARS REBUILDING AND THAT HIGH LANDINGS
OF THAT SPECIES DURING 1976 HAD, IN A SENSE, SKEWED
FIGURES FOR THAT YEAR TO A LEVEL THAT COULD NOT BE
SUSTAINED. NOTING THAT TRANSITORY FACTORS SUCH AS
WEATHER COULD AFFECT SHORT-RUN RESULTS OF
FISHERIES, FMS REPS EMPHASIZED THAT 200-MILE LIMIT HAS
BEEN IN EXISTENCE OFF CANADIAN SHORES FOR ONLY ABOUT
SEVEN MONTHS AND THAT REBUILDING THE FISHERY WOULD
NECESSARILY EXTEND OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS. END COMMENT.
MOORE

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